THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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RARE ORIENTAL RUGS
HANG AT ART MUSEUM

Forty-one carpets from late 16th through early 19th-century Persia, India and Turkey will go on display Wednesday, September 20 at The Cleveland Museum of Art. The carpets belong to a loan exhibition touring cities in the United States and Europe through the generosity of The Kevorkian Foundation of New York. The collection was made by the late Hagop Kevorkian, a prominent art collector and dealer, who assembled an outstanding collection of Oriental art during his lifetime.

The carpets range in size from an Indian carpet over 52 feet long to a 4'10" by 3' 5-1/2" prayer rug; several are rare silk carpets enriched with silver and gold. They represent a wide range of traditional Oriental carpet patterns, including important garden and animal types. These designs reflect the influence in artistic styles of many cultures --Babylonian, Assyrian, Scythian, Christian Coptic, Islamic, Turkish, Mongolian, Chinese and Persian.

The exhibition includes a few rare 16th century Persian carpets and many are from the 17th century, the period during which some of the finest carpets in the world were made. The exhibition's Indian carpets are all from the 17th and 18th century, the time of the Mughal dynasty when India was under strong Iranian influence and many Persian carpets were imported. The Persian carpets were soon copied and finally converted into an Indian-Mughal style quite distinct from the Persian prototype. The Turkish examples, produced in court manufactories and in town- and village-organized industries of Asia Minor (in such centers as Ushak and Anatolia) during the late 16th through the early 19th centuries, also

incorporate Persian design but add a new naturalistic floral decoration.

An illustrated catalog accompanies the exhibition. It was prepared by Maurice S. Dimand, Curator Emeritus of Near Eastern Art of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The exhibit will remain in Cleveland through November 12.

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